



the ongoing transformation of regional planning in the United States

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TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- ❖ INTRODUCTION TO REGIONAL PLANNING IN THE U.S.
- ❖ EMERGING TRENDS
- ❖ REGIONAL PLANNING | TOPICAL AREAS
- ❖ IMPLEMENTING REGIONAL PLANNING | TECHNIQUES
- ❖ FUTURE OF REGIONAL PLANNING | REFLECTIONS



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INTRODUCTION
EMERGING TRENDS
TOPICAL AREAS
TECHNIQUES
REFLECTIONS

What is Regional Planning?



- ❖ **Regions are natural, and yet they are not**
- ❖ **Regional planning = collaborating for common issues within a common geography**
- ❖ **Regional power must be delegated or ceded from federal, state and/or local units**

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Regional Planning: A Constellation of Approaches

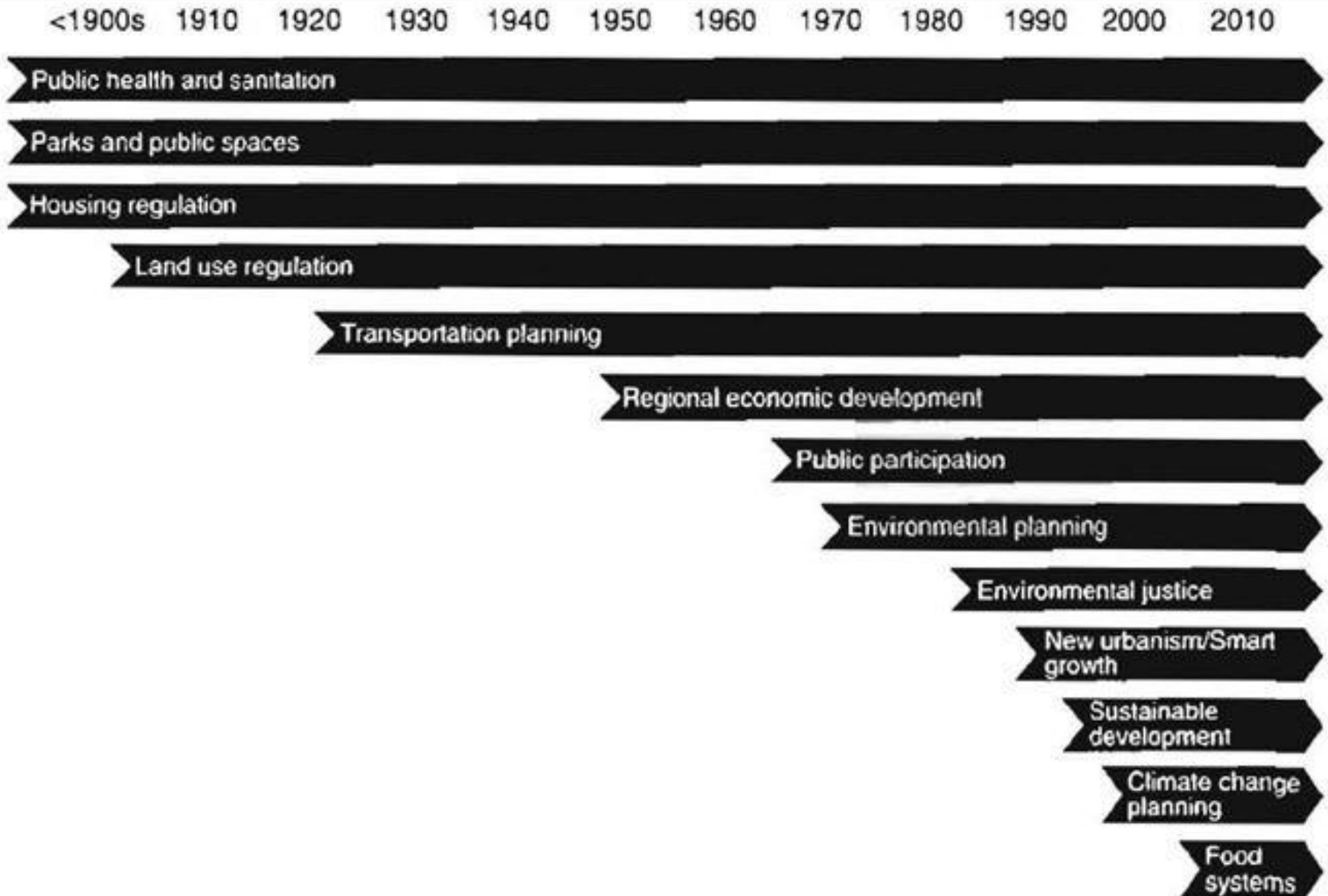
alphabet soup

- COGs
- RPAs
- MPOs
- SPDs

- ❖ Continuum of Territory
- ❖ Continuum of Function
- ❖ Continuum of Decision-Making Structures
- ❖ Continuum of Participation
- ❖ Continuum of Implementation



evolution of planning priorities



regions examined



INTRODUCTION
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evolving: integrated regional plans



REGIONAL PROFILES



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- INTRODUCTION
- EMERGING TRENDS
- TOPICAL AREAS
- TECHNIQUES
- REFLECTIONS

Six Trends in Current Regional Planning

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SIX KEY TRENDS IN REGIONAL PLANNING

- ❖ Regional planning for sustainability
- ❖ Integrated regional planning across related topics
- ❖ Inclusive engagement and expanded partnerships
- ❖ New approaches for implementation
- ❖ Forecasting for change and disruption
- ❖ New technologies, tools and techniques



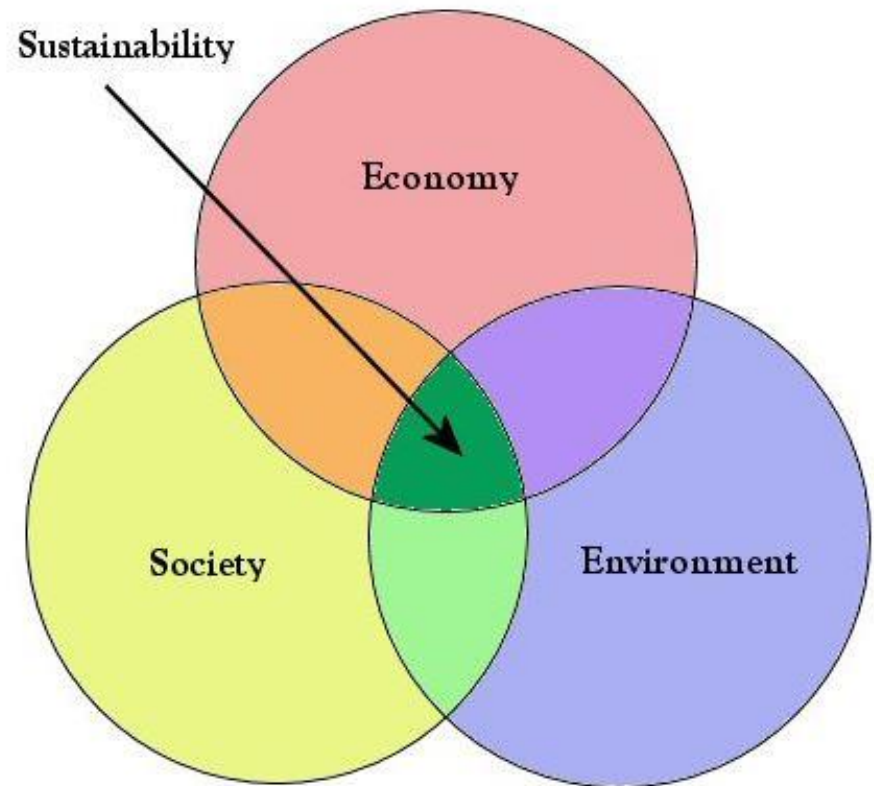
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Addressing Economy, Equity, & Environment

- ❖ Planning for Sustaining Places
- ❖ Sustainability & Resilience
- ❖ Sustainability & Livability



trend 2: integrated regional planning across related topics ¹⁰

“A region, someone has wryly observed, is an area safely larger than the last one to whose problems we found no solution.”
– Jane Jacobs



- ❖ “systems” approach : ecosystems & bioregions | economy | infrastructure | health | housing
- ❖ horizontal & vertical integration
- ❖ urban-rural interface



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Inclusive Engagement & Expanded Partnerships in Regional Planning



- ❖ Collaboration | coalitions and partnerships
- ❖ Performance-focused | iterative planning
- ❖ from local-regional to regional-state interests (or even regional-*national*)

trend 4: new approaches for implementation

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New techniques & approaches for Implementation



- ❖ Plan regionally – act locally
- ❖ New partners in implementation – including universities, foundations, special committees
- ❖ Performance-based planning requirements

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trend 5: forecasting for demographic changes

Demographic changes and changing regions

The “*Four – S’s*” (M. Hinshaw)

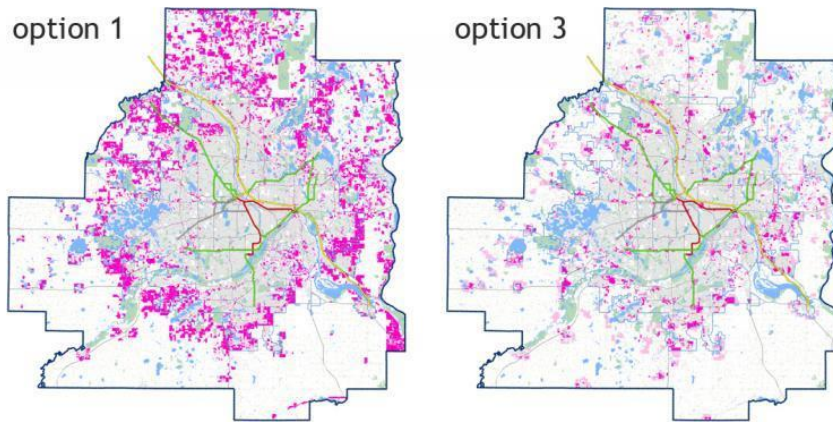
- ❖ seniors
- ❖ single person households
- ❖ start-ups
- ❖ single-parent families



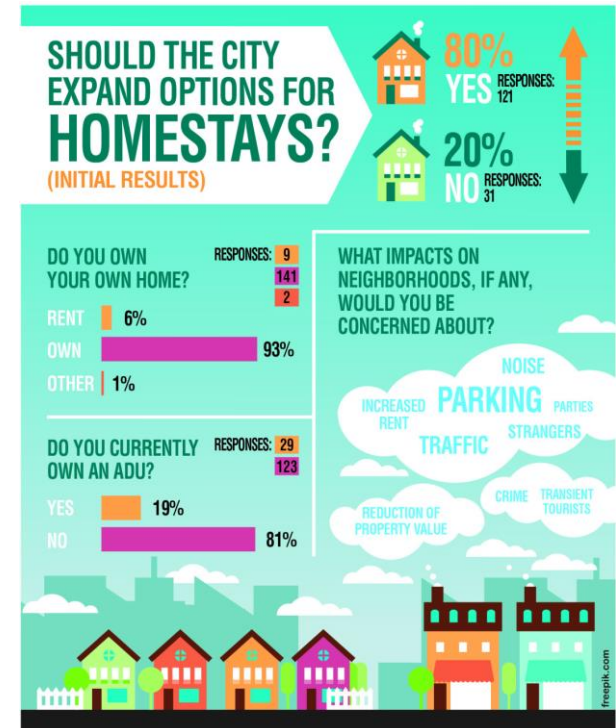
Also, immigration and further diversification of regions

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New Tools And Techniques



- ❖ More sophisticated models
- ❖ Widespread use of sketch tools
- ❖ New metrics for measuring sustainability



evolving: planning for topical areas

❖ REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

WATER – HABITAT – LAND PRESERVATION – OPEN SPACE

❖ REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

❖ REGIONAL HOUSING PLANNING

❖ REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH PLANNING

❖ REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING



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evolving: planning for topical areas

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example of a more integrated approach: water: key 21st century challenge

- ❖ WATER (TOO MUCH, TOO LITTLE, TOO POLLUTED, TOO DESTRUCTIVE)
- ❖ “ONE WATER” (i.e., WASTEWATER, SURFACE WATER, GROUNDWATER, IRRIGATION, DRINKING WATER)
- ❖ INTEGRATION OF WATER WITH TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE NEXUS

INTROD
OVERV
TOPICA
TECHNI
REFLEC



FLOODS



DROUGHT



CONTAMINATION



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planning for water is evolving

❖ 60s & 70s: ERA OF NEW LAWS & REGULATIONS

*CLEAN WATER ACT / WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
REVOLVING FUND / CRITICAL PROGRAMS ACT . . .*

❖ FEDERAL LAWS IN SILOS ∴ PLANNING IN SILOS

❖ MOVING TOWARDS MORE INTEGRATED APPROACH

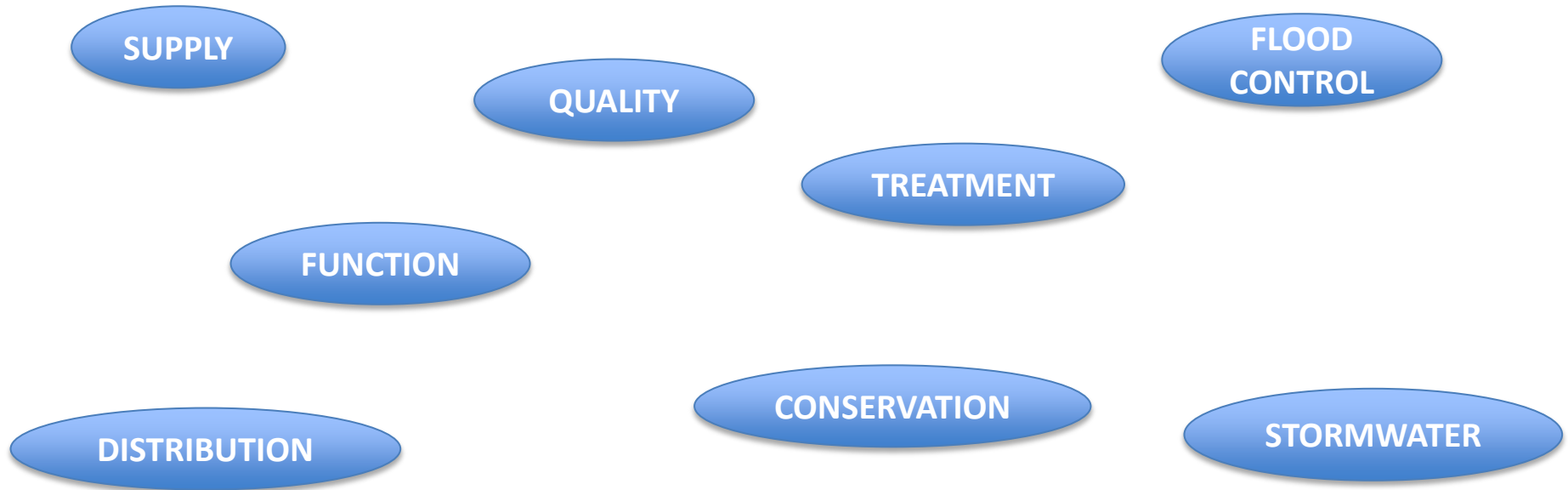
*e.g., WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY / SUPPLY / FUNCTION
/ DISTRIBUTION / TREATMENT / RETURN / REUSE*



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planning for water is evolving

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WATER PLANNING IN SILOS . . .

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planning for water is evolving

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INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER PLANS . . .

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planning for water is evolving

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**INTEGRATED SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING . . .
. . . FOR WATER AND MORE**

**GREEN
INFRASTRUCTURE**

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planning for water is evolving

THE WATER /LAND USE NEXUS



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example: evolution of regional planning for water

Green Infrastructure Planning

- ❖ Systems practices – that mimic natural processes
- ❖ Example: Milwaukee
- ❖ Deep Tunnel > Greenseams | land conservation, vegetation restoration
- ❖ Rain barrel, green roofs, bioswales



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topic: regional public health planning



I-PLACES Development and Application
FINAL REPORT

❖ King County - *HealthScape*

❖ San Diego - *Healthy Works*

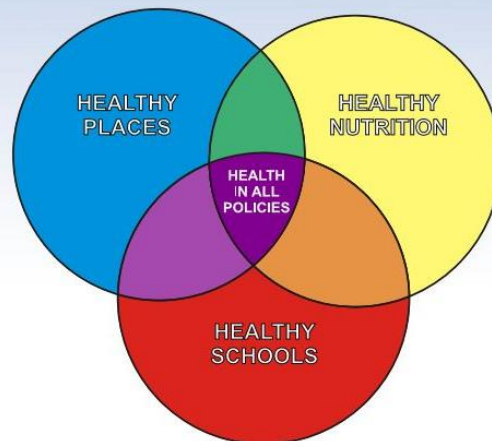
I-PLACE3S Health & Climate Enhancements and Their Application in King County



Communities Putting Prevention to Work- Healthy Works - San Diego

15 Interventions addressing 3 focus areas:

- Increase healthy nutrition
- Improve nutrition and increase physical activity in schools
- Increase physical activity through the built environment



Ecological Model: Working on Solutions at all levels

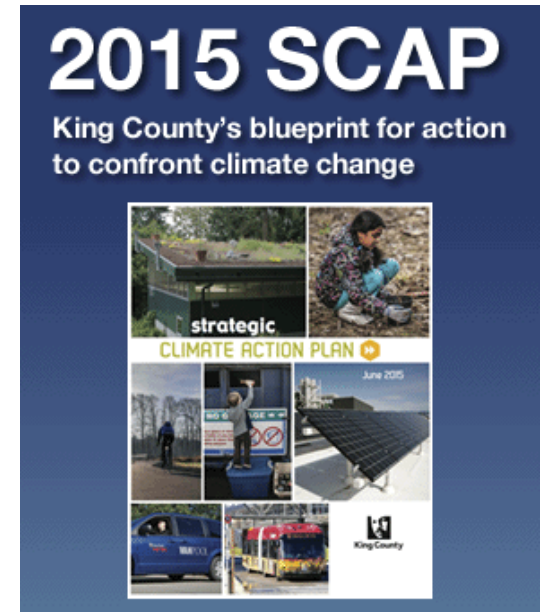


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topic: regional climate change planning

regional climate change planning

- ❖ King County
- ❖ San Diego | regional, local & ad hoc



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evolution: techniques

- ❖ **FUNDING TO LOCALITIES FOR REGIONAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**
- ❖ **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
- ❖ **COLLABORATION WITH IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS**
- ❖ **CONSISTENCY REVIEW**
- ❖ **PERFORMANCE MONITORING**



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- ❖ Regional Livable Communities Funding Programs
- ❖ Atlanta – Livable Centers Initiative
- ❖ San Diego – TransNet
- ❖ Minneapolis – technical assistance



techniques: collaboration | consistency review

- ❖ Puget Sound: Plan Review & Certification
- ❖ Mile High Compact



- ❖ new partnerships
- ❖ town-and-gown cooperation

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reflections

- ❖ FROM SUSTAINING PLACES – TO – SUSTAINING REGIONS
- ❖ FROM INTEGRATED PLANNING – TO – REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING
- ❖ ACTION PLANS | WATER-LAND USE NEXUS | GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE | CLIMATE CHANGE
- ❖ MEGAREGIONAL PLANNING



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connecting to *APA Sustaining Places Initiative*

APA Sustaining Places - Principles for Comprehensive Plans – Topical Areas

Livable Built Environment:

Ensure that all elements of the built environment—including land use, transportation, housing, energy, and infrastructure—work together to provide sustainable, green places for living, working, and recreation, with a high quality of life.

Harmony with Nature:

Ensure that the contributions of natural resources to human well-being are explicitly recognized and valued and that maintaining their health is a primary objective.

Resilient Economy:

Ensure that the community is prepared to deal with both positive and negative changes in its economic health and to initiate sustainable urban development and redevelopment strategies that foster green business growth and build reliance on local assets.

Interwoven Equity:

Ensure fairness and equity in providing for the housing, services, health, safety, and livelihood needs of all citizens and groups.

Healthy Community:

Ensure that public health needs are recognized and addressed through provisions for healthy foods, physical activity, access to recreation, health care, environmental justice, and safe neighborhoods.

regional action plans

water | land use | green infrastructure | climate | health



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reflection: megaregional planning

Regions among Regions

- ❖ mobility
- ❖ water
- ❖ green infrastructure
- ❖ open space
- ❖ economic resiliency



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DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

thank you!

